

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for the interstitial coagulation of tissue, comprising:

a first three-dimensional treatment electrode that can be expanded to various states of expansion during use and is adapted to conduct an HF coagulation current into said tissue, the treatment electrode being formed such that by one of continuous and stepwise expansion of said electrode it can be kept in constant electrical contact with the tissue during coagulation, ~~wherein the treatment electrode comprising comprises~~ one of an elastically stretchable and an unfoldable surface element that defines a ~~hydraulically~~ separate interior space, that is enclosed by an auxiliary body that hydraulically separates the interior space from the surface element, to which an internal pressure can be applied to expand said surface element and thereby said treatment electrode; and a liquid-supply through which an electrically conductive liquid can be delivered to the surface element,

wherein the surface element is configured to receive electrically conductive liquid from the liquid-supply.

2. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein a control device is provided for controlling the degree of expansion of the treatment electrode dependent on said coagulation current.

3. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 2, wherein said control device is adapted to enable an adjustment of a current density of said coagulation current between said treatment electrode and said tissue.

4. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 3, wherein said control device permits the current density to be adjusted independently of the degree of expansion.

5. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein measurement devices are provided for detecting the state of expansion of said three-dimensional treatment electrode.
6. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim 1, further including a liquid-supply through which an electrically conductive liquid can be delivered to said surface element, and a current supply device adapted to deliver said HF coagulation current to said treatment electrode in such a way that said HF treatment current conducted to the liquid that is passing through the treatment electrode.
7. (Canceled)
8. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 6, wherein said surface element is in the form of one of a ring and a sphere.
9. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 6, wherein said treatment electrode is constructed in the form of a balloon catheter.
10. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 6, wherein said surface element is adapted to be filled with said electrically conductive liquid.
11. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 6, wherein said electrically conductive liquid comprises one of polyvinyl pyrrolidone (PVP), a surfactant and a similar means of changing the viscosity of said electrically conductive liquid.
12. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 6, wherein said treatment electrode is made of a thermally stable material; the form of one of a film, a felt and a woven fabric.

13. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim 6, wherein ~~said interior space is enclosed by an expandable auxiliary body that hydraulically separates said surface element from said interior space, and~~ said surface element is constructed in several layers such that in an inner layer, electrically conductive liquid can be directed towards an outer surface of the element, and in an outer layer, electrically conductive liquid can be directed perpendicular to the outer surface of the element.

14. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 6, wherein a suction device is provided to suck away liquid.

15. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said electrode is adapted to be supplied with a cutting current.

16. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 12, wherein said thermally stable material is comprised of tetrafluoroethylene.

17. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 13, wherein a partition layer with a greater resistance to liquid flow than said inner layer is disposed between said inner layer and said outer layer.

18. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim 1, further including a second three-dimensional treatment electrode that can be expanded to various states of expansion during use and is adapted to conduct an HF coagulation current into said tissue ~~by one of continuous and stepwise expansion.~~

19. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 18, wherein interior spaces of said first and second treatment electrodes can be placed under pressure independently and expanded to different degrees.

20. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 18, wherein said first and second treatment electrodes are arranged co-axially along a central axis of said apparatus.